



Skygardening

—first draft—

a poem by

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A poemella by Kespuzzuo

Preface – This is an early access draft

Hello there, dear reader.

The text you're holding is a very early version of the tale of Skygardening.

This means that it is not the definitive version and does not fully fulfill my vision for the story I'm about to tell, yet.

If there's a better version, feel free to read that one instead. You can still read this one, if you want to know about the development of this tale.

If there's no such thing yet, then, feel free to read this anyway. This draft is meant to be a starting point, something that gets the ball rolling.

Please keep in mind that I do have planned fleshing out almost every plot point on this story, for example, the plot about Lolo, Lala, and the spiders going out on a quest to explore the mirror world will be explored with endnotes and mentions through the story. On future drafts, the second act of the story (Books III to VI) will focus more on advancing the actual plot, which is a conflict where Eden Land and Floralia join forces to fight against Dark Mind. More layers of the situation will be discussed, including the complexities regarding how it was handled on HAL's version of the story, and the purpose of that fight. I really wanna ask with this poem, Do we want Taranza to be happy? Do we want the Queen of Floralia to be a benevolent and prosperous ruler? What makes us wish these things?

I gotta mention a gimmick that I came up for this story. The main story is fully told on first person present tense, so, it is fully told from the perspective of one character (me. Povynn is literally me), but, there will be endnotes that lead towards other perspectives, where the focus is given to different characters on a different time. I think it makes it neat and organized. Also, there will be footnotes, which will be used to indicate cultural references and trivia.

I (Povynn) do not intend to be the protagonist of this story, and want to be an observer who learns more as I visit this place (Floralia) The actual protagonist of the story, who this whole narrative is centered on, is Queen Sectonia, the spider that rules over Floralia, look her up online!

Oh! And, regarding Kirby. He does exist in the story, but, he is a complete mystery. In the following edits, I'll tell you that he is supposedly talked about often, as some sort of legendary being who can do amazing feats. He'll also be part of a discussion through the plot.

Book I – Soaring the Sky

1 – Welcome to Floralia

Over the skies, over the breeze of this particular planet.
There's a kingdom sitting on top of a floating archipelago.
Popstar is quite an interesting place, even if you're coming for a vacation here.
At this height, I can see the points of this star-shaped planet over the morning sky.
Not usually noticeable when you are on the ground, for sure I can tell you.
By my side, Emronia flies along. And I'm glad she's joining me in this adventure.
She brings Quentin with us too, who is a great friend for the both of us
The three of us happen to be lakesprites, two-tailed psychic beings.
We land at the highest island there was, where the big palace and buildings are.
At the entrance there's great towers decorated with plants and tinted glass.
Classical architecture. It was as if we were brought to a fairy tale.
The great gates open up for us, as this beautiful realm weaves in front of us.
We cross and hover through some big halls with arches of silvery bricks.
The scent of flower-people and antennae of bug-people catches our attention too.
The strings, keys, and horns of their instruments play a serene song.
We're waved by the citizens, as they invite us to learn about their traditions.
Then, one guard bows in front of us, "Welcome to Floralia, the floating kingdom."
"Thank you!" I say, "We're coming for a vacation, we sure hope it is fun!"
The guard then nods "It is. Our Queen makes sure that it's neat and pretty."
"I think I heard about her... is Sectonia her name, right?" Quentin asks.
The guard nods again "Yes, you are right. Our Queen, Sectonia"
"She does seem to be an interesting ruler, I did read about her, after all." Emronia adds.
After this chat we tour more of the city, amazing me with the thought of a floating land.
I ask myself how it works. How would they even get water in here?
I ask and get told that not only they have plants that turn humidity into water...
But they also hold technology that either does that or collects the rain.
I really find it amazing how they can feed all of these plants up in here.
I wonder how this all began, how they found a place to live up in the sky.
"I want to learn the history of Floralia." I say to my friends.
"We sure can, and I wanna learn too." Quentin agrees.
We're not coming with a tour guide. This is more of an spontaneous tour.
So, the plan is to have chit chats with the citizens instead.
And it just happened to be lunch time, so we'll go to a nice and comfy cafe.
The first thing you'd notice would be the chocolates on the windows.
Along with the pancakes, the waffles, and all those cakes they displayed there.
The owner's a nice flower-lady, wearing a cute green apron.
She tells us that her species is commonly referred to as "people of the sky"

They can of course, float, and their faces are surrounded by flower petals.
Seems that most of them are dressed in the greenery cloaks of a plant.
Nice to know them. The cooks who work with the lady also make good dishes.
Quentin's mouth is watering as he stares at the sandwiches he ordered.
He also ordered many brownies with ice cream on it, and two milkshakes.
Guess what... I'm getting a sandwich too, with some fries on the side!
Emronia gets herself a salad with bread sticks and some protein in it, coated in sauce.
She just happens to love that sauce. I do like it too, ever since she told me.
"So, what other kinds of beings live here?" I ask the owner.
She says to us "Well, you might also have heard of the cloud spiders"
"They've got white hair, horns, and brown skin" she adds.
Emronia and Quentin look at each other, as they both share white hair and horns.
Like soft horns, they are more like tiny ears on top of them.
They then two blush in front of each other and the owner.
"I sure hope they don't mistake us" Emronia jokes.

2 - Chased around

After filling ourselves, I thought of getting some souvenirs.

But, as we get some keychains, magnets and stickers...

Rustles of leaves and falling objects make us turn our heads.

A white-haired spider emerges from some bushes and flies away.

He carries a huge bouquet of flowers. So big, that some even fell.

His red scarf waves like a flag as he holds it tight with his white and orange gloves.

He looks back to see the one-eyed scarflies that chase him.

If you don't know about those, they're those orange orbs with ears and faces...

That get very angry, and I mean it, when you upset them.

Anyways, I reach my hand for help and get ready to help, when...

"Povynn! No, let's not get in trouble while relaxing. You know?" Emronia yells.

I turn back and express my worries "But, but... it makes me guilty!"

I turn back and went ahead, until Emronia and Quentin hold my tails.

As I watch the spider escape and fly to the palace, I land softly on the grass.

"I'm sorry for that... you know that I'm used to doing that" I say to my friends.

Emronia wags her finger "Well, you shouldn't worry, there are guards here"

"Yeah... you are right" I say as I brush myself off, "Anyways, let's keep going"

3 - A masked sight

We cross hedge mazes that surround Royal Road, and we sit by a fountain.

On the top of a fountain we see a statue of people of the sky and spiders.

With their faces looking at what seems to be the islands rising off the surface.

"Oh, I think I know what this is supposed to be..." Emronia points out.

"I was told that hundreds of years ago, the ancestors of Floralia lived on the ground.

They lived on a small town called... Botoria, where both spiders and plants gathered.

But, one day, magically, a group of islands next to Botoria were lifted off the ground.

And so, since they could fly, a new land was settled above the sky, called Floralia."

Emronia nods and smiles "and that's what I've heard so far."

"I wonder what has been of Botoria. Is it still here?" Quentin asks.

Emronia scratches her head "Well, that's why we have to ask Florilians about it"

As we cross more gardens, towards to the castle, we hear another noise.

The slashing of sharp blades and explosions alert us.

This time, I actually manage to run away to see what happened.

I tilt my head by the edge of a hedge to see a short floating figure covered in smoke.

As the clouds lift off like ashes, I notice they dress in all-white clothes.

They look like a teru teru bouzu, one of these white dolls made for the rain.

A long, white cloak, with several belts by the middle of their chest.

Most likely a way to close that cloak. Looks like the jacket of a rockstar or an old soldier.

Even inside that cloak, there seems to be a big white jacket extending to their boots.

And above the cloak, there's an scarf bigger and puffier than mine, torn at the ends.

But, the most interesting thing, is that they are wearing a cube-shaped helmet.

I can't even see their eyes, it is a white cube with a single purple dot.

As soon as they stare back at me, they jump and fly away, like a blur.

I can even feel the gust of wind that shakes the leaves as they depart.

When I turn around, I see my friends on my shoulders, watching as well.

At this point, we thought that it was enough touring for today.

So we'll go to an inn to eat tasty food and sleep for the night.

4 - The spider magician

The next morning is upon Floralia, upon a beautiful sky above it.
The horizon looks almost clear with a blue hue, with a few blue clouds.
I can even point my finger at the many landmarks that Popstar has.
On the distance I can see a castle that is said to be inhabited by a hungry penguin.
I can also see a tower that reaches the sky, and an airship with wings and a mask.
"So, Povynn, are you ready to go to the museum?" Emronia asks me.
I turn around and nod at her, "Yes, of course I am."
So we pack up, and explore more of the Kingdom before heading there.
Until, we stumble upon somewhere in our way, right here at Royal Road.
And he happened to be the same spider we saw yesterday, he even drops his diary.
"Oh, I'm sorry! Are you okay?" I say as I hand his diary to him.
He fixes his hair and scarf, and I notice that he ties his scarf on the middle.
Me and Emronia use that type of knot. I learned it from her.
The spider nods "Sorry for that! I was busy doing business for our majesty."
He blushes at us and adjusts his green cloak. I then raise my finger.
"Oh! So you know the Queen!" I say to him, "How is she like?"
The spider then says "Well, she is the Queen of my heart. I love attending her!"
"That's nice." I giggle a bit, "We happen to be travelers from a faraway realm...
And we're interested in Floralian history and culture. So, may I ask...
Is the Queen up for the task for receiving this trio of lakesprits?" I ask him.
The spider thinks for a bit and writes things on his diary.
He then nods "Sure! You may follow me to see her!"
So we now follow the spider, and we head to the castle.
"So, young spider, what is your name?" Quentin asks.
"Taranza" the spider says, "That is my name, nice to meet you!"

Book II – Your Majesty

1 - A royal encounter

Taranza is happy to let us go through the halls of the royal palace.
It has floors with colored tiles, like tinted glass, and windows of tinted glass.
There's also pillars with very detailed designs between the halls.
We even see banners waving with the wind, showing an emblem of the Queen.
The spider magician then hovers in front of a well-designed door.
He looks through his pockets, and pulls a key, which then goes into the door.
Not only he uses a key. His gloves light up, as if he were to use magic.
Gears and cogs turn and rotate as the door opens up. The key is taken off at the end.
With that done, Taranza bows to us as we enter the throne room of the Floralian Queen.
The room is decorated from the floor tiles, the carpet, to the columns and the ceiling.
Big pots having several types of plants of them hang by the walls.
The clouds above Popstar can be seen between the chiseled pillars at the sides.
A long carpet leads towards the monarch, sitting on a big comfy throne.
Pillows and cushions that resemble flowers and spider webs sit there as well.
She has long white hair, yellow horns, and pink eyes with eyelash over her brown face.
She is... just like Taranza, a cloud spider, and she even wears similar clothes.
Her hair is longer than his, and she has some pretty pink gloves.
We stand in front of her and bow, as Taranza presents us.
"Your Majesty! These are travelers that have come across galaxies and planets...
They're the legendary beings known as lakesprits, with their gems and tails,
And they're seeking to uncover the secrets of the history of Floralia." Taranza says.
The Monarch hops out of her throne, and her cloak waves as she flies towards us.
"It's such a nice opportunity to get to meet you, Queen Sectonia." I bow to her.
She then nods at us "Great to see you as well, travelers. And thanks for your visit."
The spider Queen then walks away as she waves to us with her glove.
She then brings a silver plate, with borders that emulate flowers and leaves.
On top of it, there's cookies with jelly on the middle, resembling flowers.
"I have heard of lakesprits before" she says, "But I have never met them face to face."
"Isn't it exciting?" I ask, "I'm really surprised to see a monarch like you in person.
I also like that you have such interesting hobbies, like gardening or art." I tell her.
The Queen nods, "Yes, I do. I'm glad you find it interesting!"
"Do you draw often?" I ask her, as my face turns red.
She nods at me and brings a sketchbook showing flowers and building plans.
"See? Some of these drawings are even used to plan out the Kingdom." She says.
The pages were flipped as she showed us drawings of her and other citizens.
"I also take my time to draw myself and my friends," She tells us.
I'm so excited! You wouldn't believe how friendly she is to us!

I pull a tiny sketchpad, "Look, I could show you mine too!" I say.
She flips through pencil sketches of me, my friends, and beings from many worlds.
"Oooh! Yes, you have drawn creatures from this world too!" she says.
She points at some waddle dees I drew, "These are usually from below our islands,
And many of them serve the blue bird with a hammer, King Dedede." She says.
I rub my chin as I ask her, "I always wondered, is he a penguin?"
"Well, he can fly. And to my knowledge, penguins don't fly." She tells us.
I laugh, "Well, you might be right. Maybe he is his own thing" I conclude.
We then walk through the halls of her castle, which I cannot stress how pretty they are.
There are even paintings of other historical royals that lived over the sky.
"May I ask... have you three had breakfast yet?" The Queen asks us.
We tell her that we haven't had a meal yet. And so, she guides us to another place.

2 - Spider bites

The dining room has a long table, and a ceiling of glass, like a greenhouse.

Of course, like a greenhouse, it has gardens of bushes, plants, and fruits.

So we sit, being amazed at the scenery, as Taranza brings us plates.

There are bowls of rice with eggs, tiny cuts of veggies and sauce on top of them.

Next to them, we have well-baked bread filled with blends of sauces and protein.

On the other side, tiny sliders of burgers with lettuce, spices, and sauces.

With a few cuts of fried potatoes hiding behind them, along with three condiments.

The plates are as white as marble, with ornaments resembling laurel on the side.

And they are laid on top of that long tablecloth with repeating symmetrical leaves.

Oh, and at the center of the tablecloth, there are diamonds of other floral patterns.

Taranza then raises a finger, as he realized he has to bring something to drink too.

"Mister Povynn, what would you like to drink?" he asks me, and asks the others too.

Some water can do it for now, but, some exotic juice might be good too.

And with that, he gives me a tall cup filled with yellow and pink juice.

He and Quentin are having cups of chocolate milkshakes, as they sit together.

The Queen and Emronia are having some bottles of sparkling flavored water.

So, we begin eating, and the Queen giggles, "Hey, you seem to be enjoying our food!"

"So, your Majesty, I wonder... What has been of Botoria?" Emronia asks.

The Queen cleans her mouth and explains, "So, regarding the town of our origin.

Centuries ago, Floraliens had moved to the newborn floating islands.

It was then, when out of the far away sky, out from the galaxy, a threat emerged.

It started out as a glimpse up in the sky, blending between the stars.

But then it got closer, threatening to affect us. The sky dawned with fiery colors.

Clouds spun along with the stars, and the wind blew even the islands out.

It opened its eye, and spawned mirrors around it, and blew up our previous home.

As most of us fled away, we called for a giant legendary reptile to help us out.

So, with time ticking away, it faced Dark Mind and sealed it for an eternity.

Ever since then, we have been living on Floralia, leaving Botoria rest on the land below."

Emronia puts her hand over her mouth, gasping. "So... how is it now?" she asks.

"Oh, since then it wasn't been inhabited, but, I can show you" the Queen says.

3 - Floral Fields

After filling ourselves with such a delicious and complete breakfast,
We leave the palace and descend each island, to land on the lowest one.
The air is much more pure here. This place is filled with nature, forests, and fields.
In fact, this island, the one closest to the surface, is called "Floral Fields"
We walk through gardens that resemble forests, with trees towering over us.
And with big circles of neatly placed flowers surrounded by such trees.
The Queen then guides us towards the edge of this island, to look at Pop Star.
A wide panoramic view of the planet, much clearer than the view from above.
With her floating glove, the Queen points at what was once a crater on the horizon.
Once a crater, now turned into a field of green grass, surrounded by a monument.
With a spyglass on our hands, we look at the former town with more detail.
The monument has statues of the former heroes, and has bouquets around it.
We walk more across the island and between the multicolored trees.
With their gloves glowing, the spiders spawn water that could grow the crops.
And then the spiders spin the falling fruits into baskets for them to carry.
"You know, Emronia... I can't help but notice your outfit" the Queen says.
Emronia had just recently put on her green cloak and red scarf to combat the weather.
She giggles as she looks at the Queen wearing a similar outfit, "Do you... like it?"
"Well, I do! I could tell that you like Floralian culture" the Queen giggles.
Emronia blushes, and feels herself shrinking in front of the Monarch.
Sectonia then holds her own scarf, "These do have some history behind them.
The clothes I wear are traditional Floralian garments that species like me weave...
And they're able to enhance someone's magic and power" she says.
"Oooh, you're even wearing the scarf the same way!" the Queen points out.
Now Emronia's blushing very hard. She even flies towards Quentin for a hug.
Taranza giggles, "Hey, nothing wrong with that! You look nice like that, Emronia."
Quentin scratches his head, "Well, these have been popular at home too."
"Oh, I see... I personally think it's great to see Floralia being known" the Queen says.
And so, the chatter goes, as Emronia tries to not feel embarrassed.
After a while, I stand with Taranza behind everyone else walks away.
"I wouldn't mind if we had something in common" I quietly tell him.
Taranza smiles at me, "Yeah, me neither. We could even teach magic to each other"
"I would love that. I think you'd make a great friend!" I nod.
I'm making him so happy, that the two of us exchange numbers.
We can hear the others whispering far from us. The Queen looks back and invites us.
"Hey! We'll be having lunch together! You should come!" she announces.
And so, on top of the plains of many colors, we sit by a tree, and have a picnic lunch.
It isn't as big as the breakfast, but, it sure is delicious.
"You know, Floralia hasn't been having a fun event for a while" Taranza says.

He then says "So I had this idea that we could have some sort of live game carnival...
Like some sort of festival, where you can go play games with us! For the fun!
I even wrote some ideas myself" he pulls out his journal and shows us.
We are surprised, in a good way. I think he has some fun ideas!
"If you want to, tomorrow we'll start, and anyone can join!" Taranza says.
Me and my lakesprite friends whisper to each other about saying yes or no.
Then, the three of us nod at the spiders, "Yes, we're up for it!"
And so, we enjoy the rest of our meal under the refreshing shadow of the tree.
We then wave our hands at the spiders, "We'll see you tomorrow!"
And they fly smoothly back up to the castle, like balloons flying up to the sky.

4 – Untold

The three of us are left there watching the sky and the other floating islands.

"I don't think many get to live above the sky. We are quite lucky." Emronia says.

"I wouldn't say lucky." A voice says from behind us between the bushes.

We turn back to see one of the people of the sky, a serious one.

"Those spiders... there's something about them you should know" he says.

"There's some kind of untold truth about them. I hope you are ready"

We approach him and listened with attention.

"So, the truth is... that these spiders, their species, are a parasitic species...

They can leech the power away from other beings and make them weak.

And I do fear that you've become their new source of power" he tells us.

"That's shocking... How do you even know this?" I ask him.

"It's a secret between the people of the sky. We don't speak up because we fear her.

I'm pretty sure you are aware our Queen has big army, and is powerful" he says.

"But, so far, the spiders have been nice to us. How can you back this up?" I ask him.

"Oh, but, that's how she gets you" he says, as other people of the sky emerge.

"For most of its time, Floralia has been quite free from it's own monarchy...

It wasn't a serious thing, since we lived our lives by ourselves" another one says.

"But, as of recently, it has been difficult to ignore the growth of the monarchy...

Now every day we can see one new change made by her" a third one says.

"So, I urge you three, to bring change upon us, and to free us" the first one says.

"If this was a republic, I'm sure you'd win by a landslide" someone laughs.

I turn back to talk with my friends, and say "I'm not sure what to do about this."

"We're lakesprits, I'm sure that if anything goes wrong, we can fix it" Emronia says.

"You are right, but, they're able to use magic just like we do" I respond.

"Should we get someone to watch over?" Emronia asks.

"Yes, to watch over. I'm still not sure on who should I trust" I say.

We then look back at the people of the sky, "Thanks for telling us" I bow at them.

"We believe in you!" They say as we bid them farewell and fly back to the hotel.

Book III – Mysterious Weaving

1 – Festival

Another morning is upon us as we wake up at our hotel.

Did I sleep well? Probably. Still thinking about what happened yesterday.

If Taranza and the Queen are like that, then, I'm pretty sure most would be aware.

The other lakesprits and I head onto the street in a quest to uncover the spiders.

This is when, the three of us realize how fast the royals are at hyping the citizens.

On every corner of the road, balloons and banners announce the carnival.

So, we head to the castle as the road gets more and more crowded.

Everyone's paying attention to a podium above the stage that's in front of the palace.

We stop and stare, and none other than the Queen and her servant appeared there.

"Good morning, Florilians!" she says, "I hope you are excited for this event!".

"I know it's been a bit tough lately, as we've been dealing with our invader" Taranza says.

"So we thought it would be fitting to relax and have some leisure for now" she says.

I looked at both Quentin and at Emronia, and Emronia shrugged and shook her head.

"Let's just ask, assuming won't help" I whisper to both of them, before jumping on-stage.

The people of the sky whisper and gasp as I fly towards the spiders.

The Queen greets me, "Oh! It's you, Povynn! I am glad that you are here"

I bow to her and ask "Your Majesty, may I ask... who is this invader you speak of?"

She smiles and raises a finger "Great question, we are talking about..."

She closes her eyes to take a deep breath, and hands her mic to her servant.

The Spider Queen looms closer over me to whisper "we're... talking about Dark Mind".

I cover my mouth and look to the side. The topic of Dark Mind comes to me.

Was it done for? If the spiders are talking about it, then something is up.

And part of me wonders if I could use of some help. But, should I really do it?

Oh! Yeah, one more thing, the thing about the parasitic species.

"Your majesty...? I also have another topic to bring to this discussion" I say.

She responds "Oh, I see you are curious, but, let us leave that for later today"

I fly back to join my fellow lakesprits to tell them what is going on.

Taranza gives her back the mic. "The first game is called... Shard Hunters!" she says.

"Yeah, and we'll be hosting a special match against me! A one and one game" he says.

The Queen nods, "We'll be giving a monetary price and a medal to whomever beats him".

"Hey, Povynn, do you plan on doing something?" Quentin softly asks me.

I whisper to him a plan I got, and he nods to me.

"Will someone want to play against Taranza?" the Queen asks the audience.

"That will be me!" Quentin raises his hand, "I wanna face him!"

Some others raise their hands, but then they whisper, probably about us.

Quentin then remains the only one standing with a hand up.

"Yes, you! The white and blue lake guardian!" the Queen points at him, "Come here!"

She then announces "Taranza will be playing against...!". "Quentin" he says.

2 – Hunters

We meet at Floralia's famous toy factory located at Lollipop Land.
Pretty huge, while still being incredibly clean, shines like plastic.
Puzzle pieces patterns on the walls with columns of easter egg textures.
Not only they make toys, but also equipment for defense and city planning.
Taranza pulls a crank to open a double door towards our benches.
So me and Emronia sit and enjoy some drinks and chitchats.
While on the other side, through the window, the playing field for the game lies.
Two doors behind it open, revealing the rivals, Quentin, and Taranza.
The white and blue lakesprit is cheered by the public as the underdog.
While Taranza is celebrated as a cunning trickster, and an expert.
This game consists of an eight by eight tile map, like Chess. A to H, one to eight.
It also resembles Minesweeper, tiles contain secrets, win one point, lose one point.
By the way, this is a points game, the winner is the one who reaches fifteen points.
Points can be called shards too, hence the name. But I'll call them points for now.
The tiles have been randomly sorted by a machine, so no one knows what's inside.
Each player has a turn to open one tile. We just gotta decide who plays first.
Taranza shows Quentin a coin, he takes the coin gently to examine it.
And then, with a coin flip, the coin lands on heads. Quentin goes first.
"So, which tile do you wanna reveal first?" The spider asks him.
"I'll be going with D4" he replies. The tile gives him three points. "Oh, nice!"
Guess who is commentating this event... the Queen herself. She's on the room above us.
Now it's Taranza's turn, he picks the E4 tile. "Aww, one point? Okay then, I got this!"
Quentin then picks the C3 tile, he gets one more point.
The next tile the spider magician picks is the C4 tile, which says... swap scores!
"Oh-ho-ho! We swapped scores! Now you got one point, while I got four!" Taranza says.
Meanwhile, at the benches, I wink at Emronia and whisper "I'll be going to the restroom".
So, with my excuse, I walk away from the game, and explore the factory.
Beyond the doors there's actually a maze of hallways and bridges.
I also assume there are cameras, but I can't even spot them. There's employees too.
So, this is my plan. The mission is to sneak into the Queen's room and ask the question.
Since I am the lake guardian of perception, I can use my powers to create illusions.
I can make myself invisible, or make others see what is beyond this reality.
I am even able to manipulate sounds, including playing music and sounds out of thin air.
This also means that I can filter out the sounds that I make.
Got it? Okay. I make my way through the halls pretending to refill my water bottle.
I close the door behind the stall and make my way to scan the area.
Near the audience's area there seems to be only gates towards the seats and the field.
I take the stairs towards another floor, and I almost get chased by a forklift.
Some spinning platforms that form part of the contraptions almost hit me.

A door with a sign indicating the offices is on the other end of this room,
And everyone thinks it remains closed as I use my tricks to deceive them.

The offices are nearly abandoned, guess it is because of the festival.
Anyways, I then take the emergency stairs and then head to the next door.
And I think that I got her, because at the end there's the door to the studio.
I quietly, very quietly, approach, and move the handle as slow as possible.

It doesn't go all the way, it's locked. Welp, I don't know what to do.

What if the game ends? In that case, the Queen might leave the place.
Not sure if she would be pleased to see me right here... let me hide behind this desk.

Ah, much better. That way she won't find out.

There's chants of my friend's name, and clapping. We're probably down to the wire.
The audience then waits in silence, and then I see the door open, and there she is!
She starts heating some water, as I sneak into the studio, and hide at a corner.

The Queen of Floralia, making some tea as the innings change.

She then comes back to narrate the match. Which... isn't going well for us.
"Okay then! Now Taranza has thirteen points, while Quentin has three" she said.

I still got my illusions on, and my heart is pounding hard.
What would actually be the moment to interrupt her, if there's actually a moment?
Both the Queen and the audience gasp, as Taranza gets one point closer to the goal.
I peek into the game, hearing cheers and chants for Quentin, who's killing time.

He then looks at his rival, and tells him "It was a good game, Taranza".

And he receives a surprise as he unveils a tile that swaps scores.

He even did it with his eyes closed, I bet he's really anxious about it.
Everyone's gasping, he opens his eyes and teases Taranza with his result.

I hover back into the corner knowing things will go well.

Okay, Taranza's getting three more points, that's okay.

Quentin lost a single point, that's alright, I hope.

What's important is to not sound in a way it offends or unnerves.

Oh! wait, wait! Quentin's about to open another tile.

He got three more points, which means he won the game!

Taranza praises him, and he decides to handshake the spider with his six gloves.

Part of me feels bad that I can't celebrate this in the proper way, though.

"Okay, that's the whole game! Thank you everyone for participating" Sectonia says.
Quentin says "Thank you, Florilians, for this game! It sure was tense, but, I enjoyed it".

The Queen giggles and then leaves the chair, she opens the door to get some tea.

So, I leave the studio, and hover behind her, and whisper "Your Majesty..."

Oh wait, she has eyes behind her back! I slowly lift the spell and reveal myself.

"It's me, Povynn. I... wanna ask something, your Majesty".

She jumps as she stops stirring the cup, and turns around.

"Oh! oh...! P-Povynn... I didn't realize you got here" she says.

I remain silent as I try to find a way to ask the question.

"You know, you don't have to call me majesty... in moments like these at least" she says.

I nod, blushing, feeling as stirred as her own tea. "So, is Sectonia okay?"

"Yes, it is, Povynn" she says as she gets her drink ready.

"I heard a rumor, and I want to know if it's true or false".

"Sure, tell me" she sits down at the studio as I follow her.

"I didn't say this, someone else did, I'm pretty sure it's a hoax, but, hear me out...".

She nods "go ahead", she sips and adds some sweetener.

"Some people -not me- say that... spiders like you... are... a parasitic species".

Sectonia gulps "Oh! No, we are NOT like that! That is definitely a hoax".

She's shaking "Povynn... that was a lie originally spread by King Egger".

It almost seems as if she's shrinking, she gets closer, "and even if we were parasitic...".

"We would never leech on other creatures, for the good of all" she says.

She's panting, and feeling her heart beat, and then, she turns around.

"Wait... is this still on?" she looks at the mic, "Aaah! They heard our whole conversation!".

She grabs me in a flash, "Povynn!" she cries, and begs "Please be more careful!".

Now it was me the one who felt himself shrinking, "I am... really sorry, Queen".

She nods, and calms down, "It is alright, Povynn. At least you know we're good spiders".

3 – Relaxation

After the game, we had some time to split off into our own groups.

Emronia hung out with Sectonia, for the two to go on their own.

Meanwhile, us, the boys, me, Quentin, and Taranza, just went places, for fun.

We fly across the islands, staring at the horizon, as someone else approaches.

He stands across the edge of an island of arid rocks and snow, waving his glove.

"Glad to see you again, Lolo," Taranza tells him, and lets him join us.

Lolo nods, the two then whisper as we head towards a small town on the desert.

"So, Lala said she and Sectonia plan to..." Lolo whispers, but I cannot hear the rest.

Taranza nods, "Yes! yes, she also brought someone else" and he points at me!

"Hey, Povynn! Is it true that Emronia wanted to know about Floralia?" he asks.

He surprises me, and I jump as I say "Yeah! She does... I do too".

Taranza then whispers more to Lolo, "I believe we can defeat Dark Mind"

"You know that it was easy to defeat King Egger several times" the spider said.

Lolo nodded, "I mean... it wasn't that easy! The guy turned our citizens to stone!"

"And he made his paths towards his lair a big trial and error challenge" he pointed out.

Lolo then said "Dark Mind has been the biggest threat we've had so far..."

"Egger is just a mere speck compared to it! That's why we need to team up!" he said.

I nodded to Quentin, and asked Taranza, "Excuse me... may I join the fight?"

"Oh! Povynn... we've been on a break for now, hence, we made this festival" he told me.

I challenged him, "So, what's up with the wait, are you guys waiting for Kirby to do it?"

Taranza put his gloves together and let a breath out, "I may let you help..."

"...I heard you are some kind of legendary being, is that right?" he said to me.

Lolo pointed out, "We are just waiting to get... a full recovery! A whole maxim tomato!"

We would later spend the afternoon at a book cafe, chatting with other Florilians.

On the evening, we walk under the falling snow of a forest above the mountains.

There was even a small ensemble playing classical music, it felt like a movie.

After that one evening, we split off again. Taranza got curious about the Queen.

So, me and Quentin just head to the hotel, and, man!.. we are exhausted.

I sleep, my dream gets deep, I wake up, but it's too late, I sleep again,

The following dream then feels as if I'm awake, only for me to wake up again.

Book IV – Magical Baseball

1 - Rules of Baseball

I finally feel as if I am actually awake. Emronia flashes some tickets in front of me. "Hey! We've been invited to a baseball game" she says to me, and reads me the tickets. Turns out the tickets are for actually playing the game, so we head to the stadium. Located at the end of the tropical island, between the volcanic and the desert one.

Not much close to the edge, I could say it is on a safe spot for a floating island. Moderately sized, with a ceiling high above the ballpark, transparent, but strong. Imagine how it would be if there was no ceiling. Picture the balls falling onto Popstar.

The venue has a neoclassical style, with engaged marble column and all.

There have been other stadiums I had visited in the past, with different styles. Some had floors which looked like the seats of a bus, or the pavement of parking lots. It was nothing like this, this place was pretty much a completely different animal.

This place had the appearance of a well-maintained hotel. Or a famous museum.

So we sit by one of the pubs that you can get to visit before going to the seats.

There are a few games in there too, like Air Hockey, and Pool.

From the other side, double doors open to reveal the spiders, and Lolo and Lala.

"Hey! Looks like you're all here!" Taranza says to us, and sits next to me.

"Yeah! We are" I nod, and then ask "But, I wonder, how are our teams supposed to be?"

"Well, this is a four by four baseball game" Taranza tells us. I think that works.

Our rivals had already formed their team: Sectonia, Taranza, Lolo, and Lala.

Taranza brings a blackboard with wheels all the way to here, "Okay, pay attention!"

"Before I begin, does anyone want to play first or last?" he asks us.

We looked at each other, I really don't mind anything. But, hold on.

I think the team that plays first is the visiting team, which... could be us.

We agree and mention that to Taranza. He agrees and begins writing on the board. But, we're still a team of three players, while the other team already has four members.

I look around the bar in search for someone to play. Guess who I stumbled upon.

The Silk Guardian is playing Skee-Ball, casually. He just appeared just a minute ago.

"Didn't see you here" I tell him. He laughs, and says "Must have been the blackboard".

I invite him to be the fourth member for our baseball team. He gives me the thumbs up.

Taranza explains the rules, "Alright! So, there will be three innings", got it, it'll be short.

He then points at us, "Your team will play each first half, and then we'll do ours".

"There will be an order of appearance for all innings" he says. Now we have to decide.

So... our rivals decided to appear in the order I mentioned previously.

Which is... Queen Sectonia first, then Taranza, then Lolo, and last, but not least, Lala. Our team will start with Emronia, then Quentin, then me, and then the Silk Guardian.

The first player is the first batter, if they become a runner, the second player bats.

Each batter has a pitcher that faces it. First batter goes with first pitcher.

The catcher is the next defensive player in line. This might need an example.

If Sectonia is pitcher, then Emronia is batter, and Taranza is catcher.

The other two defensive players are field players.

Which on the example I mentioned previously, would be Lolo and Lala.

"Oh! But, I do have a question! Who's the umpire?" Emronia asks Taranza.

We all look around once again, trying to pick someone fitting for the job.

Sitting at one of the tables, there's an orb-like being, like Lolo and Lala.

He has a white body, blue limbs, and also a pair of small blue eyes.

On top of him, he's got a baseball cap of pink and blue stripes with a green visor.

He introduces himself as Chun, and he's spending a vacation here at Floralia.

And that's how we got our umpire for this game. We got all set up.

2 - First inning

An audience of Floraliens and visitors from Pop Star and other planets cheer.
We bow at the audience as we get ourselves set up on each of our positions.
The first inning starts the game, with Sectonia being a pitcher to Emronia.
Officially, the Strike Zone, which marks the difference between a ball and a strike...
Lies between the knees and the midpoint between the shoulders and top of the pants.
"Hold on! What happens to the Strike Zone if I do this?" Emronia asks.
She then hovers mid air and lays down there as if she was on an invisible divan.
Which means the Strike Zone would be so short to the point it's unreachable.
Taranza giggles from behind, Emronia exclaims "Wait a second... you don't have knees!"
The spider magician nods "I guess we'd have to make a special case for this rule."
Because of this, Chun agrees with us to make the Strike Zone consistent for all of us.
Her majesty throws the ball, Emronia swings, ball flies to the sky. She must RUN!
She takes off and quickly heads to first base, slapping it with one of her tails.
Then, she stays safely at the second base. Now Taranza is the pitcher, facing Quentin.
He bats, and takes off. Ball is caught by the Queen, who tags Emronia out.
My time comes, Quentin waves at me from the first base, Lolo is about to pitch.
I swing the bat to the air, as if it was a sword, Lolo surprises me and earns me a strike.
Then I swing for real this time around! But, nope! It was a foul ball!
Lolo then goes easy on me and I actually swing. I take off to reach the first base.
Taranza then impresses me mid-run by tagging me and already having the ball caught.
Claps and gasps are heard from the audience, I look at them with my big sad eyes.
Then, at the bench, I whisper to Emronia "Did you see how he reached with his gloves?"
"Yes, yes... Seems like both an advantage for him and the Queen." She nodded.
We both see Taranza do it again, with one glove, he reaches the ball.
Then, with the other one, he tags Quentin, ending our turn.
Bottom of the first. Emronia is chewing gum as she prepares to pitch.
Okay... Boom! One strike for Sectonia, then another one, then a third one. We got her.
Quentin then starts pitching, one ball, then a strike, and then Taranza bats and flies.
Lolo squints his eyes at me, ready to bat. I look at Emronia, who's ready to out Taranza.
But then I immediately pitch the ball, and Lolo perfectly bats it. It flies, and it's gone!
Now with our rivals having two points, and us having none, I hover out in the field.
Lala bats to the sky, and I fly upwards to catch the ball, which I throw to Quentin.
And we get Lala out! Emronia gets ready to pitch at the Queen again, and she does.
I catch the ball again, and tag her majesty before she reaches second base.

3 - Second inning

Top of the second. We're whispering amongst the team the new trick up our sleeves.
We laugh and start the inning. Emronia is ready to bat, and Sectonia pitches a ball.
Her mesprit eyes glow pink, along with her hands, as the pitch approaches her.
But the ball doesn't reach the Strike Zone, and Emronia smirks at the Queen.
Sectonia throws another one, and Emronia doesn't even swing, knowing it's another ball.
The Queen licks her lips and fakes out a pitch, then actually pitches really fast.
"Woah!" Emronia swings in a flash, but then sees it curve and fly to the foul area.
"Oooh!" the public is amused, and are clapping at the Queen, while Emronia blushes.
The Queen giggles, with her glove hiding her smile. She seems to be getting mischevious.
Well, guess what! We're doing it too, specially Emronia, who now refuses to swing.
A ball happens, and then the fourth one appears, awarding her the walk.
Quentin's turn comes next, he starts with the same strategy, and earns a walk too.
Now I face Lolo, and I know what to do. I don't sugarcoat it and repeat the strategy.
He's getting mad at me, "Povynn! I know what you're doing!" he tells me.
Gasps are heard from the audience. Everyone whispers, as loud as a cafeteria.
I shrug at him, then I look at Chun, who is looking from one side to the other.
"Well, I'm not sure what to do about it, I think both teams are cheating" Chun said.
Lolo pointed out to everyone "Cheating? I'm no cheater, you're cheating!"
"There's a proverb that goes... Everybody cheated, next time... I'll cheat" I replied.
Sectonia then suggested "So, lakesprits, how about we play with magic?"
"I bet that it'll be pretty rare to find a game like this ever again!" she argued.
So we agreed, and the game continued. Lolo threw the ball, and this time I swung it.
The ball flies, as we all make it fly higher while breezing through the bases, and it's gone!
Emronia and Quentin raise their hands for us to clap together, to celebrate a home run.
Lolo gets ready to pitch again, and throws it fast, I swing again and run.
But then the Queen laughs at me as she grabs both the ball and me while I run!
I giggle back at her, sweating, and then sit back at the dugout.
Taranza tags the Silk Guardian out, who then sits with me.
But, he remains silent, as if the presence of the spiders was affecting him.
He seems to be a half-different person when he's like this.
Emronia now knows to swing and then use telekinesis to earn a homer.
But now the spiders are using another trick where they move the ball to the foul territory.
Emronia is almost at the end of her turn, swings, and takes off, avoiding Lolo and Lala.
She flies fast, and remains at the second base again, panting and sweating.
Now it's Quentin's turn, and it is very likely for Sectonia to tag him out.
He swings, and takes off really fast, and he gets chased by her.
He does a backflip, and then flies on a zig-zag, then keeps running past the first base.
Emronia is also running and being chased too. She jumps from place to place.
And Emronia is about to score a run, when Quentin is caught past the second base.

Bottom of the second. Our team has 3 points, the rivals have 2 points.

Sectonia's bat glows, as she enchants the ball with extreme sound blowing speed. My hands and eyes glow as I magnet the ball towards me, and touch her with both tails. Quentin looks at the ball, glowing in pink, but takes off the enchant by blowing air at it. It just went away like dust. "Oh! Didn't know it was that easy" he said, and pitched.

But, Taranza also had enchanted his bat to perform the same trick.

Emronia faces the ball and slows it down in the middle of the air, almost at the ceiling.

She then dives to the ground and slams Taranza with her whole body, outing him.

"Ow! You gotta be more careful!" he tells her, as he rubs his head and horns.

It's Lolo's time to bat, and he's not using any magic at all. He's been clean this whole time.

Two swings with a miss, he then bats, with the ball flying moderately.

Lolo runs! Emronia magnets the ball to her hands and throws it to Quentin.

Quentin then chases Lolo, who's also jumping and dodging him. Lolo reaches first base.

Lala swings and runs, dodging both me and Quentin at the same time as we pass the ball.

But she also lands at the first base, with Lolo being at the second base now.

Sectonia returns to the batting position, since the team was running out of players.

She performs the enchanted bat trick again, and swings it, ball lights up with the speed.

But try my best to slow it, catch it, and then dive towards Lala, ending the inning.

4 - Third inning

Top of the third. This will be the last inning of the game.
The new fans we got over this game are clapping and cheering at us.
We're at our best when Emronia is the batter. Only Lolo and Lala defend.
Emronia swings and takes off, waiting for the ball to reach the ceiling.
According to the ground rules, it's a home run if it touches it.
She touches the first base, keeps going, while watching the ball.
Sectonia involves herself too and brings the ball back to the field.
Lolo and Lala catch it, and take turns holding it as they chase Emronia.
Emronia jumps and touches the second base, and keeps going, flying to the third one.
She reaches the third base, and stays there, panting, with her tongue out.
Now Lala and Sectonia are defending, Quentin must watch out for them.
He bats with as much force as he wants, and drives the ball up to the sky.
Emronia runs as fast as possible, Sectonia catches the ball and chases her.
And Emronia turns around and with her tails touches the final base, scoring a run.
Quentin then spends the rest of his turn intentionally getting balls.
But Taranza realizes this and starts doing a tug-of-war between him and Quentin.
The ball moves from one place to the other, out and into the zone.
And then, the ball just flies and hits Quentin. Taranza blushes. Quentin gets first base.
Now it's my turn, It is optimal for me to get a walk too, as both spiders defend now.
And it's pretty easy, I just get Lolo to pitch me and then I move the balls out of the zone.
But then, he looks at the spiders, then at me, and it looks like he's about to pitch...
When he turns around and throws it to Taranza, who immediatly tags Quentin.
It's still my turn, Lolo takes a time to plan what to do. Sectonia makes him hand signs.
Lolo just shrugs and continues pitching as normal. I get a base on balls.
"Please get a base on balls too" I whisper to the Silk Guardian, he nods at me.
So, he goes. But then, I realize I put myself on the same situation as Quentin.
So, Lala throws the ball at Taranza, and I jump off the first base as if it was lava.
I fly across the venue, while Taranza chases me, I then slam into the second base.
Lala laughs, and then throws the ball at Taranza again, and the chase continues.
"Hoo-aaaagh!" the spider cries as he flies towards me with all his force.
I then jump towards the third base, and Taranza crashes into me. He shakes his head.
Lala pitches to Taranza again, and I try my best to fly from the third base to home.
The spider almost grabs one of my tails, but I spin and get my tails away.
I then fall into the home plate, tripping over and getting covered in dirt.
Emronia's turn is on again. She swings with all of her strength, and flies to second base.
Taranza then giggles, as he faces Quentin, and passes the ball to Sectonia.
So, Emronia flies, but then gets one of her tails grabbed by the Queen of Floralia.
Quentin is now on first base, and I'm about to bat again. Lolo is guessing the meta.
So he throws the ball at Taranza, who chases Quentin for a while, before tagging him out.

Bottom of the third. Our team has five points now, while they still have two.
Emronia pitches at Sectonia, but then the two try to use their abilities to move the ball.
And the ball moves from one place to the other, finally being tossed to the public.

"That's a ball!" Chun said. The ball was caught by the audience as a souvenir.
Emronia then covers the ball in a pink glow, and pitches fast. Sectonia misses, one strike.
She does it again, and pitches. Sectonia swings, but misses again. Two strikes.
The Queen looks at us and chuckles, she gets ready to swing. Emronia pitches.
Sectonia then surprises us by launching the bat while also holding it with her silk.
She manages to strike the ball and let it fly far away. The ball magnets at me.

"Oh woah, it burns!" I blow air at it and then see that she advanced to second base.
I am a catcher now, so I watch Quentin throw the ball at Emronia, who chases the Queen.
The spider spins all around Emronia, almost making her dizzy, and then scores a run.

Now I face Lolo, and Taranza is on first base. I give Emronia the ball, to chase him.
So Taranza moves in a spiral around Emronia, but she then tags him from the middle.

Now we need two more outs to win, and they need two more runs to win.
Lolo sits on first base, while Lala gets ready to bat. Then, the Silk Guardian pitches at me.

I quickly get Lolo off the game, and the turns repeat again. Now Lala is on first base.
Emronia throws the ball in my direction, but then the ball is pulled into Sectonia's place.

And the Queen hits it so hard that it almost scratches the ceiling.

With my psychic forces, I pull it the hardest I can, my face is red and sweaty.

Same for my hands, I trip over and the ball almost reaches the end of the field.
The Silk Guardian then pulls it back to me as I fall over. I grab the ball and throw it back.
Then, the Silk Guardian catches Lala as she runs, ending the game, and letting us win.

We raise our arms together and wave at the fans. They wave back at us.

So proud for the three of us... wait, someone is missing.

Emronia pats my shoulder and points at the Silk Guardian fleeing from the arena.

5 - Are you ready?

Under a giant parasol, between bushes of berries, we wait for the Queen to come.
"I'm sorry! I just had to deal with my royal duties." She says while coming with Taranza.

Both spiders are carrying baskets of food, and let us choose whatever we want.
And yes, both teams are here now, I think it is the perfect time to bring a certain topic.

So I ask her, "Your Majesty? How did you feel about our performance?"
"Well! Your tricks and movements amazed both the audience and us as well!" she says.

I lean closer, "Do you believe... we could use our skills to take Dark Mind down?"
"Perhaps," she ponders and takes a bite of her food, and asks "What do you all believe?"
"If we joined together, it'll be an easier battle for all of us" Emronia suggests, we nod.

The Queen takes a sip, and then cleans herself with a cloth, "You might be right!"
"Let us make a pact, if it comes, we'll call you to face it" she says.

We look at each other and nod to each other, and then we shake her hands in unison.
The food here is tasty, there was passion fruit juice with the seeds inside.
And over my plate I had small slices of sandwich with ingredients I had only seen here.

"You know what else was impressing? Your own performance" I tell the other team.
They laugh a bit at each other, thank me for it and keep enjoying the food and scenery.

"I think you are all well-rested enough for a certain fight" I suggest.
Lolo scratches his back, blushing, and then says, "I guess we're sort of ready!"

"Yes! You all just need the courage to keep going!" I respond.
Sectonia then cheers Lolo, "Come on! We're getting more folks to help us!"

Lolo nods, and we then keep enjoying the meal, and the day as well.
It is a matter of time until we need to save this Kingdom, and this whole planet too.
Perhaps more of us could be of use during this quest.

Book V – Echoes of the Festival

1 - Fly down

The first glimmers of the morning shine into my bedroom, waking me up.

Above Popstar, the skies are just lighting up, pink at the horizon.

It is just very early in the morning, and I'm waking up my friends.

Why would that be? We're going to get more people to join us.

Originally we were meant to get others to watch over us, just in case.

As we learn more about the spiders, and what they truly stand for,

We think more about the possibility of gathering together to save this world.

We'll be legends, together! We'll be remembered for centuries, together!

The clouds below this balcony are blown softly, covering lakes and mountains.

Me and Emronia nod to Quentin, and we jump off, head down, out of the Kingdom.

He'll stay up there, to tell us what is going on, while we search through Pop Star.

The wind hits strong as we dive, the two of us part away as we begin our search.

My arms open as I slow my fall and glide forward, towards the horizon, like an Emolga.

Crossing perfectly round hills topped with grass, below stars of many colors.

Forests covered with roofs of leaves and castles with elegant windows and golden frames.

My destination lies at a castle of two tiers atop a rocky mountain.

2 – Invitation

At the castle of the King of Dream Land, I arrive at the front entrance.
Two waddle dees guard with spears, now have to prove I'm up to good.
I speak of the festival above the clouds, hosted by the spider Queen.
Apparently the relations between this Kingdom and the one above are neutral.
Never been enemies, neither had a friendship as strong as the one with Eden Land.
"There are prizes! And wonders might happen!" I tell them, persuading them.
Now, I try not judge the King's appetite, but, I mention the meals we had up there.
I describe, like a praising critic, the breakfasts and dinners we shared.
More waddles come by, and hear my words. Some realize and invite the King.
Another topic I bring is how Lolo and Lala are preparing music for this party.
And then, the King comes, and I bring back the discussion about food.
He's pretty big compared to me and the dees. A fuzzy red coat and hat is worn by him.
Determined look on his face, blue feathers, yellow beak, he leans towards me.
I invite him to the festival, and tell them of all the good things that'll happen.
He smiles at me, and then asks me where it will be. Then I point to the sky.

3 – Halberd

One giant ship flies across the sky. One that was slim, long, and dark.
At its back it has three pairs of bat-like wings, and a warrior mask at the front.
"Good thing that Meta Knight let us go in the Halberd, right?" Dedede tells me.

I nod. I am also curious about the ship, it is pretty steam-punk-like.
Pipes go from below the walls to above, while the floors have stainless steel tiles.
There's also a big window, letting us see the morning rise above Pop Star.
A gate slides open, revealing that Emronia also happened to arrive here.

"Oh! Hi Povynn! Didn't know you'll be here too!" she says.
I scratched the back of my head and laughed, "Yeah! So, who did you bring?"
"My search began by getting some animal pals to join me" she begins telling us.

"Then, one blue slimy orb, a pink octopus with a ribbon..."
"Later, a waddle dee with a bandana showed up, he told me about you, King Dedede!"
"And at the end, the dee with the bandana recommended me this place!" she finishes.

I cheered at her, "Yes! That's really great! I think this festival will be really fun!"
And so, we all gather and share with each other some moments.
At last, the ship parks at the outer parts of Royal Road, with no problems at all.

4 – Crossover

We're all coming back, to the city, to check on the spiders and the orbs.
The Floraliens wave at us, as we walk towards the main square.
Whispers regarding King Dedede are heard, and he bows at the citizens.
He is guarded by several waddle dees, including the one with a bandana.
Behind him there's Meta Knight and his crew, from back in the ship.
And all around us there's the rest of the pals that we brought up here.
The spiders and orbs can be seen from the distance, prepared for this moment.
Her Majesty turns around, then screams in fear, pressing a button behind her cloak.
"Aaaaah! Floraliens! Get him!" She commands to her citizens, pointing at us.
Me and Emronia stick together as we watch the citizens pick up spears, rocks, and guns.
"Woah woah woah! What did we do wrong?!" King Dedede holds his hands up.
The animals we brought jump into a crouching position and cover themselves.
Meta Knight and his army unleash their weapons and watch out.
But then, from the sky, people from the sky drop a giant bird cage onto the knight.
"Sir! We'll get you out immediately!" his crew try to lift it up, but, the Floraliens persist.
The knight then uses his own forces to break away from the cage.
Amongst all the Floraliens, the Queen takes off, with her flying cloak, and angry.
With a sharp, shining sword, on each of her six gloves, she heads towards Meta Knight.
"Stooooop!" King Dedede yells, and lifts up his hammer, with a victory hand symbol on it.
She slams against the cage, as it breaks away, and sounds of slashing are heard.
An explosion flashes, blowing away all of us, dust covering all over the street.
I rub my eyes, and then, I see Meta Knight and Sectonia parrying sword.
They're arguing with each other, shouting words at each other.
"Queen Sectonia...! You must be mistaken!" the Knight tells her.
The two jump away from each other and stare at each other.
She gasps and covers her mouth, "Oh... no. You're not him!"
Meta Knight nods, "I must have notified you before."
"I sincerely apologize!" She puts her gloves together.
The Queen is sobbing, and apologizing to all of us.
Everyone is putting away their projectiles and sharp sticks.
"Her Majesty? Why did that happen?" I asked her.
She let a breath out, "There's a certain enemy that... looks a lot like him"

5 – Sovereign

The Floralians then put all the decorations back together.

With feather dusters, and brooms, they clean away the street.

And with that, the festival resumes its course! We're all good now.

"Well! Sorry for all of that!" Queen Sectonia says as we arrive at the square.

King Dedede shakes hands with her, and then with Lolo and Lala.

"Guess we didn't have to wait for the next summit to meet" Lolo says.

Lala giggles, "He doesn't go to summits often."

"I remember it was like a decade ago when he claimed himself as King" Taranza tells us.

The spider magician then says "He gathered a bunch of waddle dees, and just claimed it!"

"Ever since, I have established myself as a respectable governor." Dedede responds.

He explains "Over the course of this decade, many waddle dees have found their home."

"He really cares for us, he's entertaining too!" Another waddle dee admits.

"I can see where you are going!" Sectonia nods, "I think one day you'll be like us."

"Floralia has been a country for many centuries, with a long history" she says.

"Same for Eden Land, we're part of a tale that spans centuries!" Lala adds.

"And yes, you can say the same for Gentry Land, my home country." Lolo adds.

"Well, how about we start now?" Dedede extends his hand to Sectonia.

The Queen of Floralia agrees, and so do Lolo and Lala.

A waddle dee then asks "Wait, wasn't Gentry Land an amusement park?"

"Oh! There's the Gentry Land amusement park... and the country itself!" Lolo clears up.

Sectonia nods, "I hope you all have as much fun as we do," and bows at the audience.

Lolo, Lala, and Taranza then group together to say "if anyone needs help, you can call us."

And so, the festival went on, with people from many places watching and enjoying it.

Book VI – Truth Unveiled

1 – Cacophony

At the late evening, after a whole day of seeing the best of our moments,
I walk away from the city, on my way to take a breather.
There's an empty park in here, with a fountain, and a lot of breeze.
With a whole view towards the dusk of this star-shaped planet.
A newspaper flies in front of me, and then I read the title "You may be a member already."
When I pull it down, I see the Silk Guardian in front. His jacket waves like a flag.
"Long time no see." He tells me, "Seems like every one is gathering above the skies."
The wind is getting stronger, and he looks at the landscape below this Kingdom.
"I have always wondered, what is behind that mask?" I ask him.
"This?" He points at it. "It is a way to disregard how my creator made me."
"You'll soon find out why. This is meant to make me unique, my own thing." He says.
He hovers into the end of the park, with the wind blowing on him as I follow.
"When my creator had a desire of destroying worlds, I realized something."
"I was able to have motivations like it, but aimed at my own good." He turns at me.
His arms cross, "My desire to end Dark Mind has a subtext of being my own thing."
Pieces fall in place. The gotcha moment, at your midst. The missing link, discovered.
"Does this imply that you have any connection to Dark Mind?" I ask him.
He nods, "You now should see why." With that, he grabs his helmet and pulls it off.
I see an image of myself being reflected on him, almost as if I looked at my own shadow.
The same species as me. His helmet's single eye being the gem above our true eyes.
With his eyes being like mine, he looks at me as if the both of us stared at the mirror.
While most of my body has light blue color, which shines like diamonds,
His body bears a dark gray color, with a muted purple hue. Like blueberry jam.
Above the body, my head has light yellow color, while his head is puce-colored.
Regarding our eyes. Mine are brown, and his own lean towards rouge.
"I used to be called... Dark Povynn, as it appears I was made after you." He tells me.

2 – Summoning

"There is a way for us to bring Dark Mind to Floralia." He says.

"It will be painful, and will unleash its fury up in the sky."

"Once it lies above us, every one will have the opportunity to fire"

I shrug at him, and wait for an answer as he puts his helmet back on.

"As a creation of Dark Mind, harming me can call it." He says.

He turns, and speaks to the air, "However, I am not sure it will certainly do it."

"Hopefully you do have some final words to say," he says as he looks back at me.

I hold my breath and scratch my chin, staring at the lights of the houses in Pop Star.

Then, I laugh and confront him with my words, "You... are not based at all."

"You sound like you spent too much time online." I tell him.

I chuckle, "Like, the world is not your enemy, they're not plotting against you."

"So, that's all I have for now. It was funny while it lasted." I say as I pull out my spear.

From his military jacket, he pulls a scythe glimmering with the color of the sky.

I hold my weapon with both hands, and point it at him as I leap towards him.

A flash happens as the both of us parry blades, and the both of us are sent backwards.

I leap off the ledge and then open my cape as I soar above the Kingdom.

My mirrored copy is flying against me, as I charge my spear and swing at him.

The sound of a shattering glass is heard across the city, as I am pushed back by a mile.

Now I fly in a spiral towards him and hold back my spear until I swing and him again.

But, then, he kicks me, and with both hands above, his scythe sends me back below.

As I fall, I spin and then take back control, making a curve back to his level.

I decide to make myself disappear, and then, from behind, I push the spear onto him.

From behind, he appears and swings, I dodge. From behind, I stab again.

Tails wrap around me, like ropes, revealing he has the same kind of twin tails as me.

I feel trapped, but, then open my mouth and bite him, and he throws me at a building.

The wall blows up as the bricks fall into the world below, as I cough out the dust.

Pretty abandoned, no one but me is here, along with the dusty boxes and old wood.

And, as just as I get back up and look at him fly towards me, I hold my weapon to block.

We scream at each other as he beats his weapon over mine, like a fencing game.

Then, as a surprise, I roll under him, grabbing a box to slam him with.

Pages of books and planks scatter all over him, as I get ready to hit him again.

The other side of the attic blows up, with the tiles falling all over the street.

Meanwhile, the both of us are parrying each other over the air.

From the side, from above, in front of you, all above Royal Road.

As I loom above him, and gain the height above him, I send him back below, flying.

But, as I do it, he grabs me with his tails, and takes me with him.

The two of us hit a lonely island, with a lonely tower, and a path towards it.

He grabs my face and slams me off as we're sent flying towards it.

So hard, that it knocks me out, like a martial artist at the ring.

I wake up from my dream to find myself tied to a chair, over this decaying building.
Feels as if I got off the bed again, or as if I had a cup or two at a party.
What I see doesn't feel real, shapes are warping.
What I see is not what I remember.
"One final act, before I go, the third act."
It feels like an earthquake below my chair, and it's only getting worse.
"Now that you have seen me, you can see I am the Povynn you refused to be."
Behind me is his scythe, picking my scarf and watching over me.
"The one that didn't change his mind at the last second."
The clouds are flying away to the sky, mountains are getting higher.
I then realize this whole island is falling away.
"If it wasn't for me, you wouldn't be here. And it is for me that I'll stop it." I tell him.
He explains to me, this will be his legacy, and mine too.
"The both of us are marking the point where we made the world fight gods." He says.
He says "We'll never be stopped if we spark the chain, the others who'll follow."
"Where's the point of that if you don't even know what's ahead?" I ask.
He lets a breath out, and watches as the debris float over this falling tower.
We are now at 5000 meters above the memorial of Botoria, memory of centuries.
He says "We are accomplishing more than what others have done in the past."
"I don't believe in your way of constructing reality anymore." I tell him, he should know.
I say "You know? I will construct reality in my way, to favor myself and the others."
"Enough of your tales of legacy and martyrs, you'll be buried with them" I taunt him.
At three thousand meters, I try to undo the knots on the ropes, while he's unaware.
The ceiling is tearing apart, as my chair begins to hover away towards it.
"For sure, Dark Mind will shine above, and they'll remember us" He says.
One thousand meters, I jump away from my chair, but he grabs me back.
The both of fence against the other, holding our weapons with our minds.
Five hundred meters, it is all ending, but, I might survive.
One moon above us, the whole Kingdom of floating islands, and another moon.
Tiles fly off, windows crack, and smoke leaks off, covering the whole room.
Summary, in a sequence of five pictures...
The first one shows the former floating island, with its building, falling from the sky.
Then, the island is touching the memorial, as the tips blow away the stone.
Third picture, the tower and its ground split like the shells of an egg thrown away.
The two split even more, and scatter all over the lower world on the fourth one.
And finally, the dust settles, revealing a mess of some ruins over the former memorial.

3 – Maker

I find myself staring at a starry sky of galaxies and nebulas.
Stretching my arms as I get off my bed of clouds.
Someone is in front of me, and someone important.
A maker of beings and worlds, who has been called Ahru Ceesu.
Wearing white, black, golden and green colors, staring at me.
The two exchanging stares, as we try to piece it together.
"I'm sorry for that." I told Ahru, one piece of the entire divine being.
Not that an almighty force like Ahru or Kirby could come and solve it.
This was all in our hands, and I had to carry this responsibility, for my own good.
After all, what would even happen if Kirby were to deal with Dark Mind?
Now then, I remain firm on my belief of choosing the best constructs of reality.
After all we've experienced, do you believe you would reject both proposals?
You may say, we are neither snowflakes nor summer ants.
But, we've all been fit into our niches, we don't exist in a vacuum.
There is no family with 1.94 children. There's no Average Joe, nor a Little Timmy.
A world of billions, with some outliers, every one with their own bespoke life.
It will be nearly impossible to pigeonhole us like this without any mistake.
Similar, almost seamless, but, not the same. Nearly impossible to be identical.
That's why I'm particular about stuff. Being general is passe.
I live in a society of olives, and I want olives without seeds.
It just doesn't mean I want all, half, or none of the olives.

4 – Caribbean

"You better wake up, we have some cakes to steal."

A lunch tray and a bottle with some thick liquid lies next to me.

And in front of me, torn and wasted beings attend me and clean the floor.

They look at me, with their weeping faces, as they beg for the next step.

"You're all on vacation." I tell them, and leap off the bed.

Then, one of them asks me, "For how long?"

"For the rest of your lives." I say as I leave the hospital.

Book VII – Rocking this place

1 - The Great Sky Symphony

The hospital seems empty, and it still hasn't dawned yet.
I wave away at those who were expecting a different me, and open the door.
"Oh! Povynn!" Emronia rushes in and hugs me hard, letting tears out.
"We were so worried about you!" Taranza said, as the others nodded.
Not only my lakesprit friends are here, but, the whole group I made!
Each one tells me about how bad it would have been if I had perished.
"I'm glad you care about me." I say. "Since you took your time to look after me..."
"That makes me believe I am a good person and I make your lives better." I tell them.
"Isn't that true, Taranza?" I ask him, "If you care this much, does it tell something?"
He nods "Of course!", and then turns to say "Now, everyone, let's stay together!"
We watch each other's backs, as the sky dawns into a red tone.
Each one of us guarding the other, as we walk onto the street.
Clouds forming a circle through the skyline, and a glimpse at the top.
The Queen of Floralia points at the arrival of the fear we'll confront.
First, as a silhouette, with horns behind his glowing eyes, and a grim cape.
Pauldrons with shining, polished metal spikes on top of them.
And floating fists placed as if he were to cross his nonexistent arms.
At this moment, the Queen calls for us and the Kingdom to draw their weapons.
Horns sound through the streets, as Floraliens leave their homes in their sleepwear.
Just when we're about to fire, Dark Mind teleports several times, avoiding our attacks.
And then, at the very top of the sky, he opens his cape to summon several mirrors.
There's even the sight of a single-eyed orb under his cloak.
Several beings emerge from the mirrors and fly towards us.
And, it appears that they look just like us, but, in a dark and wicked way.

2 - That's your competition

Dark Mind disappears in front of us, leaving his minions up to the fight.
The Queen then flies off to the sky, screaming and unleashing her swords.

While the army of the mirrors falls into the Kingdom.

And, just as she reaches the top, where the mirrors are...

She is confronted by none other than Dark Meta Knight.

The two parry swords on top, and then, she covers him with her web.

She gets on top, and with a slam of her fists, sends him packing downwards.

Emronia grabs my arm, as me and Quentin run to the outer part of the city.

Walls explode, and posts fall as we fly from one side to the other in search for more.

Figures jump from one roof to the other and between the alleys.

My spear stabs the ground as I stop another of our enemies... actually, two.

A dark version of Lolo, who wore leather gloves and pointy boots.

And a dark Lala, with a pointy bow, and sharing a grin with her own Lolo.

A voice far away then says "They say, that if you break a mirror..."

"...It'll give you seven years of bad luck!" We keep hearing, yet, don't see the source.

The spear is taken off the ground as I spin it ahead of the two, and we surround them.

Then, from where we came, Lolo and Lala rush in while carrying regular mirrors.

"Haaah! Take this! Seven years of bad luck!" He says as he slams it on his clone.

Lala then bonks her clone in the head with a hand mirror, knocking her out.

The two then cover their clones inside eggs, and push them away, to the lower world.

We bounce out of there, onto some gardens, to face whoever is next.

Behind the leaves, we see several of the Animal friends struggle against a dark Gooley.

Like the original, but darker, with orange spikes around him, and a grinning face.

I jump towards him to parry swords, and try to bounce him off to the garden walls.

Woosh! I bat him away with my spear, sending him away, flying.

But then, he jumps back up and runs back to me.

Until, he gets flattened by a huge wooden hammer, held by the real Gooley.

Wearing one of those spiraling headbands, he hits his clone away, like a golf ball.

So, we run out of the garden, all together now.

At the square, we find King Dedede dueling against his own doppelganger.

A grim, dark copy of him, gothic hues, and completely blank eyes.

Instead of having the peace sign emblems of the original, he had some sort of bullseyes.

The two face each other like sumo fighters, staring at each other.

They surprise each other by crouching and jumping up into the air.

And then, the two of them spin around, with their hammer and all.

Even whirlwinds form between them, which even draws us into the arena.

Then, the real King stops and smacks his clone with his hammer, to the ground.

And, from the ground, Gooley strikes the faker with a swing of his hammer.

Shadow Dedede then does a back flip and lands perfectly over a tower.

His hammer opens, as rockets fire from its inside, heading towards all of us.

So, the original King spins his hammer and swings it at each missile.

Lolo and Lala then cover the other missiles into eggs, and shoot it back.

But then, Shadow Dedede strikes them back, as if we were playing tennis.

As we shoot against each other, he then opens his mouth and sucks storms of air.

Just then, at the last second, Meta Knight swings by and swings the Galaxia at him.

The Knight then swings again, this time at his hammer, shattering it away.

Meta Knight waves at us and flies back to wherever he came from. Now it's up to us.

Shadow Dedede extends his glove to the sky and summons an axe twice his height.

Surprise! He nearly knocks me as he chases me and swings it at my head.

I fly and take my friends away, as he chases the others. He's getting hard to avoid.

Then, from his back, the real Dedede hits him, right in the head.

The King of Dreamland lifts him like sand on a shovel and sends him flying.

And then, he launches the axe up in the sky at his mirror clone.

Both the fake monarch and his axe shatter into glass dust, as the King turns away.

"Bad asses don't look at explosions." He chuckles, as we seek our next opponent.

3 - She snaps at him

Now let's turn our attention to what's going over on the other side.
With the rest of the copies shattered, there was still one surviving.
We all gathered, to see Dark Meta Knight fight against his original.
And not only the masked blue knight was fighting, but, the Queen and his servant too.
All against one very edgy clone, going from one side to the other in seconds.
"Okay! Explain to us for once... Why do you seek to attack us?" The Queen asks.
She's pointing her swords at the cloned knight, who's not even breaking a sweat.
"The influence of our master needs to extend far beyond, to other Kingdoms" He says.
He extends his hand at her, "And to think, we originally planned something else."
"But, we cannot tell you, as you might already know what we had in store." He tells her.
Sectonia responds, "Oh, you mean the mirrors that turn us evil... I already knew that."
"If you think you can fool me... well, you got it wrong! I wasn't hatched yesterday!"
Dark Meta Knight holds his head and rubs his chin, through his mask.
He says "It is amusing. If you fell for it, people would have blamed you for being evil."
The Queen then lets a breath out, and responds, "Well, you mirror people..."
"You mirror people are not original at all, you have to depend on us to exist!"
She chuckles, "I think it wouldn't be very wise to destroy whoever gave you form."
"...And I think you must have a lot of free time if you wanna annoy us!"
She points with her glove, and asks "Is it fun for you to see some poor spiders suffer?"
"This is what you're doing! You're this messed up! You sicko!" She tells him.
"You better change your ways, or else you'll feel the bite of the Queen!" She taunts him.
The two then keep clashing swords, at magnificent speeds.
Dark Meta Knight then jumps away and unleashes a tornado.
Then, Sectonia grabs Taranza, and jumps through the wind, cutting it with her swords.
She charges towards the cloned Knight and fences with him again.
Then, from the side, the real Knight stabs at his clone, failing each time.
From below, King Dedede breaks the floor with his hammer, and slams the enemy.
The edgy clone runs through the city, and flies away, avoiding all danger.
At that time, he flies just past us, and I use my spear to trip him down.
He then fences against me, and is getting way faster than me.
I scream for help, as the other come, and surround him.
He flies and avoids Gooney and Dedede's hammers, and Lolo and Lala's circle shots.
Hiding himself into a body-sized mirror, he appears behind us.
"Hah! Gotcha!" Taranza grabs him out and spins a web on him, "Now let's finish him!"
And so, we nod at each other, and run one next to the other, taking turns.
With citizens of Dreamland and Edenland going off, and finishing with the Florallians.
And at last, the Queen of Floralia, shows her scepters and finishes him with a thunder.
A loud thunder, flashing in front of us, cracking the impostor away, and leaving nothing.
After some seconds, a portal emerges in front of all of us, where the copy perished.

Like a sink plug being taken off, the winds flow and bring us to this gate.
This is it, this is the portal that the spiders seeked to find.
We're going to find Dark Mind and finish him off.

Book VIII – Yesterday and Tomorrow

1 – Emergency

From the portal we come, one by one.
Over a sky that spins like whirlwind, of blue that gets deeper on the distance.
Barren lands of dry stone below us, with nothing else beyond the horizon.
He descends out of the sky, his horns poking out of his mask and armor.
As her cape is blown by the wind, she points her swords at him.
And so, it begins. We're all fighting against the ringmaster of this show.
He teleports several times, and shoots red stars at each one of us.
"Okay! Circle the enemy!" The Queen demands, as we keep dodging.
Gordos are brought by Lolo and Lala for Dedede to launch away with his hammer.
Two mirrors spin around Dark Mind, as he uses them to deflect the attacks away.
Meta Knight then catches Dark Mind mid-flight, and spins his sword like a drill.
I lift off and fly in circles along with him, as we chase our enemy.
Then, as he emerges again, I take my turn to drill away with my spear.
From behind, I see the Knight lend a second sword to the dee with a bandana.
And then he jumps and leaps towards Dark Mind to swing both spear and sword.
Sounds of glass shattering draw our attention as we turn and see our enemy shatter.
No word is uttered as we stand there hearing the sound of the wind.
Then, by a flash of light, we're taken to some halls of different rocks.
Similar places, like castles or caves, merged together, as we run to the other side.
The Queen closes her eyes and holds Taranza's hands, as we phase through the mirror.
Once again we find ourselves over the spinning sky of a hundred storms.
And we see him emerge once again, he reveals himself again, unshattered.
He brings his old tricks of shooting stars at us, and so, we do our act again.
Like musketeers, Meta Knight and the rest of us hold our swords and head to battle.
And so, we jump at Dark Mind and drill away with our weapons once again.
His mask, shattered, his cloak, ripped away. Rays of light emerge out of him.
Explosions of stars and energy blow out of every part of him, in front of us.
And, then, a final one flashes away the arena, so bright, it would take a while to go.

2 – Urgency

When we opened our eyes, we saw a completely red sky, and a single giant sphere.

The true form of Dark Mind, one giant amber-colored eye, burning like flames.

His twin mirrors come back, as he opens his lone eye, and draws another breath.

The mirrors fly away, as they chase each one of us, almost closing into one of us.

Dedede jumps and spins away, letting his hammer take him wherever it could.

Sectonia hovers on one side, attacking away with each of her swords.

Just for Taranza to throw a scarfy from the other side, with his web.

And from that explosion, Meta Knight dives from the sky to plant his sword.

As I fly from the mirrors, I see Lala pull out her phone and make a call.

From beyond the horizons, warp stars fly towards us, and take us away.

All of us, fly away from the wicked eye, and then turn at the last minute.

An aircraft with sails on the sides and jets at the bottom comes from the clouds.

Driven by no one at all, it launches rockets with shark teeth and grinning smiles.

Each one of them landing hits on Dark Mind, blowing like fireworks.

The Queen of Floralia then makes a sign with one of her gloves to return.

3 – S-Y-M-M-E-T-R-Y

From the shell of the former eye, a blind eye wakes up from the ground.
His shell peeled out, revealing a black surface with orange lines connecting it all.
Sectonia nods at Taranza, and the two clap hands together.
As the mirrors chase them, the two cast silk over each part of the battlefield.
Red stars and flaming lasers bounce off mirrors, as the spiders avoid it.
She is struck by one of them, throwing two of her swords.
Taranza grabs her and then points at the sky.
With the flap of his wings, Meta Knight hands both of his swords to the Queen.
And then, he covers himself as he flies away from the scene.
One round of silk, then another one, as it glimmers and bounces away the stars.
Just as a star reaches her, she brings a sword and sends it back to its source.
Then, with her scepters, she brings a static spark to the web.
She even has surrounded the blades of her weapons with it.
From the lone eye, an arsenal of stars fly towards her.
Then, with her swords and silk, sends them flying. One mirror is broken.
From the lone eye, a second set of stars fly towards her.
So she spins her swords again and shatters the other mirror he had.
With both glasses broken, the eye forms a barrier around it.
Stars fly from the sky for her to shatter the armor of the eye.
His final resort, he blinks and his eye changes into a mouth.
Stars fly back into him, as almost everything is sucked into him.
The ground shatters, the webs start to fall, but, the spiders persist.
She stares at the eye. He stares at her, the two exhausted and about to perish.
And then, with the beam firing, she brings each sword to the front.
Like a shield, the swords deflect every ray of the beam away from her.
Each ray then bounces back into the silk, and then back into its owner.
Blasts coming from each face of the ancient eye, the one who tainted the mirrors.
Lights flash from him one last time, as no shattering could save him ever again.
Sparks and stars blow from his core, as his final self meets his demise.
And with that, Dark Mind exploded away, never to be seen again.
His legacy, gone forever. The Mirror World, purged away of his wickedness.
The ground breaks away, the clouds fly away, and the whole battlefield turns to dust.
It all... floats away from us, like the soft white feathers of a pillow.

4 - End of an era

Each one of us fall from the sky, above Pop Star, and above Floralia.

A blue horizon above a star-shaped planet.

Diving with our arms open, and with the wind cooling us off.

Wait... not all of us can fly and hover like I do.

I turn around to see the animal friends being carried by the spiders.

Well, all is good for now. I even see the warp stars coming to take us.

From here we're taking a cruise across the lower skies of Pop Star.

Traveling across several landmarks, castles, or mountains.

And then, we land at Floralia, to get greeted and be celebrated as heroes.

Queen Sectonia then turns to Taranza, and gives him a tight hug.

"Thank you for everything, I'm glad we turned out fine." She says.

Then, she turns to us and bows, "And thank you all for helping our Kingdom."

The citizens rejoice, as they bring confetti, and musicians.

Lolo is amongst one of the musicians, bringing his own guitar.

Lala claps along, and Dedede brings a tambourine.

And the party goes on, as we peace flourishes on Floralia.

5 - Farewell, Floralia

At the end of the celebrations, as every one goes back home...
I come to the spider Queen and hand her a drawing of her and Taranza.
The two celebrating together in a Kingdom that is finally at peace.
"I give you this gift, because I wish for you all to be happy at the end."
"For all the struggles we had, we deserve to get the fruits of our labor."
"And, since you've been a good ruler, I think you deserve good things." I tell her.
She blushes and hugs me, "Aww! Thanks a lot, Povynn! It was nice meeting you!"
Then, I say "Floralia is such an amazing place, I'd be up for visiting it again."
"Of course you can come anytime you want, we'll be waiting for you." She says.
We wave at each other, as me and my friends take one last look at Floralia.
One beautiful Kingdom, of islands floating over the clouds, and full of gardens.
Farewell, Floralia. I will keep you in my heart for as long as I can.

Endnotes and Errata

01 - Eggerland Gaiden

The morning above Floralia was at its early hours, and the Queen was already ready. Taranza woke up to his Queen's charming voice, a smooth and deep royal female voice.

"It is time to see Lolo and Lala again." She said, and handed him a cup of coffee.

"I got you a mocha, as you asked last night." She told him.

Taranza thanked her, and hovered towards the restroom with a towel on his hands.

The two spiders got ready, dressed in elegant capes, scarves, and gloves.

By a balcony on top of the castle, they waved at the sky.

The orbs appeared in the distance, floating like dandelion seeds.

One blue, the other being pink with a yellow bow behind her.

Both being a royal couple, both wearing white gloves and white shoes.

The blue one was Lolo, the King of Eden Land. He was also the prince of Gentry Land.

The pink one was Lala, the Queen of Eden Land, coming from a long line of descendants.

Both landed safely, meeting the spiders, for another adventure.

"It's nice to see you all again!" Lolo said, "So, what is next on our quest?"

"Well, before we collect the final shard, we could hone our skills." Sectonia said.

"Yes, of course we must be strong to face Dark Mind, but, how?" Lolo asked.

The spider Queen wondered, tapping her glove over her face.

"What if we do it... in a fun way?" Taranza suggested, "We can turn it into a game"

"Oh, how would that be?" Lala asked the spider magician.

"Well, we can show the citizens a set of games that involve such skills!" Taranza said.

"Oooh, that's kinda cool! But, I was thinking of something more traditional." Lolo said.

Taranza wagged his finger, "Well, it can also get the citizens to hone their skills too!"

"Considering Dark Mind could strike anywhere, it would be quite useful!" he persuaded.

"Ooooh!" The rest of the group nodded at him as they got convinced.

"Yes, that sounds great, Taranza! Now, we should plan it out" Sectonia said.

The Queen of Floralia then pulled a book and started drawing, as the others watched.

02 - Hunters, part 2

It was now Quentin's turn to play. He picked the G7 tile and got one more point "Okay!"

Taranza then picked the D7 tile, "Oh! I lost one point, but that's alright!" he said.

Quentin rubbed his hands and picked the G2 tile, he lost one turn.

The spider giggled and then chose the A1 tile, he was shocked to lose all his points.

"Oh nooo!" Taranza put his gloves over his snowy hair, Quentin now had two points.

The lakesprit then revealed the D8 spot, showing that he lost three turns.

He got shocked and slowly fled from the grid, as if he got scared from it.

A bottle of water opened up for Quentin to drink and reflect on the game.

Not that there's much of an strategy. This was of course a gamble game.

The turn where he lost the three turns... was the fifth turn.

Which means that Quentin lost the chance to pick the fifth, sixth, and seventh turns.

On his fifth turn, Taranza picked the D3 tile, which would make him lose three points.

The Queen cleared it up, "Ah, but, Taranza, since you got no points already..."

"It means that you're not losing anything, as you cannot get negative points" she said.

Taranza nodded, and then picked the E8 tile for his sixth turn.

That tile gave... wait for it... the event of swapping scores. Taranza now has two points.

Quentin took another sip, as he watched the spider take over the game.

Then, for his seventh turn, Taranza chose the B6 tile, which gave him three more points.

Quentin came back to the game for his eighth turn, he chose the A8 tile.

The tile was supposed to make him lose all points, but, he already had none.

Taranza then picks the H2 tile, which gave him three more points. He now had eight.

The ninth turn came for Quentin, he chose the E5 tile, which gave him one point.

It was now the spider's ninth turn, where he got three more points from the G4 tile.

For his tenth turn, Quentin picked the B1 tile, but, he lost his only point.

"Hey! You've got it! Remember that at any time you can swap scores" Emronia cheered.

Quentin waved his hand at Emronia, smiling, and hoping for the best.

Taranza then picked the D6 tile, which awarded him another point, he had twelve now.

Quentin whispered to himself "No whammies" and picked the D2 tile.

He had his eyes closed, and then slowly opened them to reveal he lost the turn.

Taranza then picked the E2 tile, which game him another point. He was so happy!

For his twelfth turn, Quentin closed his eyes, and was hesitant to pick another tile.

He heard the audience clap their hands in unison and chant his name.

The C8 tile was picked, revealing that he got three points.

But he was still worried. How was he supposed to catch up with that?

Taranza had now thirteen points, it could take one or two turns for him to win.

Quentin would need four back-to-back three point tiles to win.

The only option for him was getting to swap scores.

And even that was unlikely, as two swap tiles have appeared on the game so far.

It's not like tiles like that are given out like candy.

The spider made his turn, he picked the C7 tile, which gave him another point. Quentin already saw himself lose. "I hope Povynn gets his plan in time" he thought.

He rubbed his hands, and then slowly took a sip of his bottle.

Anything to make more time. Anything to make at least one lakesprit win.

The clapping and chanting from the audience was louder than before.

"It was a good game, Taranza" the lakesprit said, and closed his eyes to pick the G5 tile.

Everyone gasped at the result. "Oh! No way!" the spider exclaimed.

Quentin opened his eyes to reveal... that he got the tile that swaps scores!

He then looked at Taranza, "Way indeed!" he said to him.

So now Quentin had fourteen points, while Taranza had three.

They were now down to the wire. Taranza was shocked, but told himself he could do it.

Taranza then picked the D1 tile, which gave him three more points.

Quentin, hoping to win, chose the A2 tile, but, he lost one point.

"Okay, that's alright. I can still win" he thought to himself.

For his fourteenth turn, Taranza chose the A7 tile, which got him three points, again.

Meanwhile, the lakesprit let a deep breath out, and chose the C5 tile.

Which got him... three more points! He did it, he won the game!

He gave Taranza a handshake, taking turns with the six gloves the spider had.

"Thank you, Florarians, for this game! It sure was tense, but, I enjoyed it" Quentin said.